

NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

80-2495/1

Director

17860

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Proposed Third World Data Base

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1. Action Requested: NFAC requests that you contact James McIntyre, Director, Office of Management and Budget, about direct funding for a Third World data bank at the Bureau of the Census

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2. Background: As you well know, NFAC has been searching for ways to improve the quality of its analysis on the Third World in order to better alert policymakers to the potential for sudden, discontinuous change in key countries. Our efforts across the board suffer from a lack of systemized collection of key demographic/social/economic variables. In contrast to the norm on industrial countries, in the case of LDCs, private services selling broad data bases simply do not exist. Available information focuses largely on Third World financial data. This is not to say that the data are not overtly available; much information could be obtained through orderly collection and manipulation of various censuses taken in parts of the Third World.

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3. CIA is not alone in its need for precise and reliable information on the Third World. Attached is correspondence from Hazel Denton of the National Security Council and Dick Benedick at State which essentially supports the idea of a social science data base (see Attachment A).

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4. Because (a) financial requirements to establish such a data base would be very high, (b) the information is needed by a variety of Government agencies, and (c) overt collection of the data might be damaged by any association with the CIA, we feel strongly that OMB should make the establishment and maintenance of such a data system a line item in the Bureau of Census budget. The Bureau appears to be the best repository for such an information system. Its employees have access to census information which includes not only demographic data but a wide range of economic and social variables such as consumer expenditures, household income, and ethnic and racial makeup of population. It also possesses a staff experienced in the anomalies of census data.

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State Dept. review completed.

NSC review completed.

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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY
FILE # 2-288

OGSR/SSRD

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5. We have discussed funding requirements for such a program with Meyer Zitter, Assistant Director for International Programs, Bureau of the Census. Assuming that AID continues to fund some work at Census (a major problem inhibiting any expansion of data base development by Census in the absence of additional funds from OMB is a recent decision by AID to cut its funding substantially in FY-82), Census estimates its unfunded requirements for this program at in the start-up year (preferably FY-81), with increases of about 15 percent a year in the next several years (see Attachment B). Should AID further reduce its present funding, outyear increases would obviously have to be greater. An adequate program, however funded, would probably run close to a year .

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6. I am attaching a letter to James McIntyre at OMB should you decide to pursue this matter (see Attachment C). (C)

25X1

Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.

Attachments:

- A. Correspondence from Hazel Denton and Dick Benedick
- B. Program Budget
- C. Letter for James McIntyre

Frank —
If you receive a letter
way of proceeding with this
objective — one letter calculated to
win OMB approval and support —
I hope you'll give us your
counsel —

25X1

ATTACHMENT A

Executive Registry

80-2495

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

November 13, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Ben Evans
Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Demographic/Economic Data Base

The NSC would like to express its support for the idea of a central demographic/economic data base on the Third World, preferably at the Bureau of Census. Additional analysis on the relationship between population and political/social instability in parts of the Third World is essential from the point of view of the national security. In addition, concerns about illegal aliens and the policies to address this issue require more indepth analysis of source countries where demographic and economic factors provide the push for such movement to the US.

I believe that the construction of a demographically-oriented data base should follow two tracks.

- Careful selection should be made of a limited number of variables such as total population, labor force by age and sex groupings, participation rates, employment, and household income for all LDCs. For analytical purposes, it is essential that time series be obtained for all of these variables.
- More detailed information is needed for a select list of countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Nigeria, Sudan, Morocco, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Regional and even city breakdowns of a broad array of information ranging from ethnic composition to the health of the population are needed for these countries.

Please keep us informed, through Hazel Denton, of any developments concerning such a data base. We would be interested in further discussions concerning its composition; it will be important to avoid using up storage space with information that would not be particularly useful for analytic purposes.

Christine Dodson
Christine Dodson
Staff Secretary

L-288



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

ATTACHMENT A

November 19, 1980

STAT

[Redacted]
Chief
Social Sciences
Research Division
Central Intelligence Agency
Room 2E52
Langley, Virginia

Dear [Redacted]

STAT

This is to confirm my understanding that, following on the recommendation of the NSC Ad Hoc Group on Population Policy, you will be preparing four short papers on the relationship between population growth and U.S. national interests in Turkey, Kenya, Central America and Egypt, between now and early next year. In addition, I hope it might be possible to edit and compress the recent Agency study on the Caribbean to a similar small-scale format, focussing on population effects. These papers, including appropriate graphic material, would be targetted for a policy-level readership in the White House and the foreign affairs agencies.

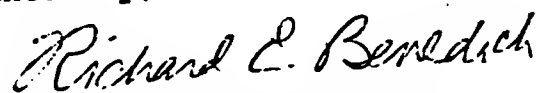
Preparation of these papers (as well as many other purposes) would be well served by a centralized, computerized data base containing fairly detailed demographic/economic/social data on Third World countries. As you know, in recent years, particularly since the World Population Conference in 1974, there has been a major increase in U.S. Government interest in world-wide population trends. The federal agencies represented on the NSC group have recognized that the high population growth rates in many LDCs have important implications for the U.S. Government, ranging from humanitarian concerns to national security concerns about social and political stability in key Third World countries. The work of these agencies, as well as the State Department, would be facilitated by a systematized, centralized data bank, preferably at the Census Bureau, where experienced professionals would assemble the data and maintain its long-range integrity for policy purposes.

- 2 -

As for my ideas on the content of such a data base, I would like to see it include information at the national and administrative area levels. It would be useful to have time series (including projections to the year 2000 and beyond where relevant) for key population variables such as fertility, mortality, age and sex structure, urbanization (including migration patterns), labor force, employment and education. For a number of LDCs of particular interest because of extreme population pressures or from the point of view of the national security, a broader range of information, for instance, economic variables such as import versus export of food and energy resources, consumer expenditure and household incomes would also be useful. Social variables such as ethnic/racial/religious composition would also be important for analysis.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Richard Elliot Benedick
Ambassador
Coordinator of Population Affairs

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The Deputy Director

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

80-2495/2

The Honorable James T. McIntyre, Jr.
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

11 DEC 1980

Dear Jim:

The National Foreign Assessment Center is responding to growing policy interest in the Third World by increasing its coverage, including the creation of a new organization of analysts who will be examining a variety of factors contributing to political instability in the Third World. Much of this analysis will focus on demographic, economic, and social factors, such as rural-urban migration, ethnic minorities, and income distribution in several key Third World countries. Although we have some capability to gather and evaluate such data (most of which can be obtained from various types of censuses), we feel that it would be far more efficient to establish a central data base at the Bureau of the Census where expertise already exists and which is accessible to other government agencies also interested in such data. ☐

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The International Demographic Data Center at Census has several trained professionals who have a wide variety of sources, such as the UN, academia, and research institutions. This group presently is compiling some data (primarily on fertility) on the Third World under a contract with the Agency for International Development (AID). To provide the additional data we need, Census estimates that it would require an additional ☐ in FY-81, with increases of 15 percent a year envisioned over the next several years (see Attachment A). This assumes that AID continues to fund some work. ☐

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We propose that a central demographic/economic data base on the Third World be set up at Census, and we urge that Census receive an annual appropriation for the activity. The development and maintenance of this data base will be an extensive, ongoing project, and we believe it should not be vulnerable to future individual agency budget cuts. ☐

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James T. McIntyre, Jr., Director, Office of Management and Budget

I must add that we have received strong support for our proposal from the National Security Council staff and from the Coordinator of Population Affairs in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the Department of State (see Attachment B).

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Sincerely,

/s/ Frank C. Carlucci

Frank C. Carlucci

Attachments:

As stated

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

Routing Slip

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 13, 1980

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Mr. Ben Evans
Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

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